WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loans given to Unemployed Graduates in U. P.

*308. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for loans from unemployed graduates which have been received by the branches of various nationalised banks in each district of Uttar Pradesh under the 20-Point Programme during the last two years;

(b) what is the amount of loans actually disbursed by the branches of each bank during the above period; and

(c) what is the total amount of loans sanctioned, number of applications rejected and the number of applications under consideration separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably, referring to the Scheme for providing Self-employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth which was introduced in the year 1982-83. The present data reporting system for the scheme does not generate the data in the manner asked for. However, the position regarding the number of cases sanctioned against the target laid down and amount disbursed in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a whole during the year 1983-84 and 1984-85 is given below:

	1983-84	1984-85
1. Target for the State (No. of beneficiaries) (in thousand)	36.00	37.60
2. No. of applications sanctioned (in thousand)	36.86	32.73

The sanctioned loan amount during 1983-84 was Rs. 53.82 crores. The information relating to 1984-85 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

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ऊन और पटसन के सस्ते कंबलों की उपलब्धता

*309. श्री सोहन लाल धूसिया : क्या पूर्ति और वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार आने वाले सर्दी के मौसम में गरीब जनता के लिये ऊनी कम्बल या पटसन से बने सस्ते कम्बल बाजार में उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि मिल मालिक और व्यापारी मोटे कम्बल और ऊन से बने अन्य कपड़ों की कीमतें पिछले वर्ष की कीमतों से अधिक वसूल न कर सकें, क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

पूर्ति और वस्त्र मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह) : (क) गरीब लोगों के लिए कम कीमत के ऊनी कम्बल उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से शादी कम्बलों और घरेलू ऊन से बने कम्बलों को उत्पादन शुल्क के भुगतान से पूरी छूट दे दी गई है । पटसन के कम्बल अब तक वाणिज्यिक प्रयोग में नहीं हैं ।

(ख) ऊन पर कुल आयात शुल्क, जो कि ओ जी एल पर 50 प्रतिशत से घटाकर 48 प्रतिशत है, तथा उत्पादन शुल्क में दी गई कुछ अन्य रियायतों के रूप में केन्द्रीय बजट 1985-86 में दी गई राहत के कारण ऊनी वस्त्र सस्ते होने की आशा है। तथापि, ऊनी वस्त्र की कीमत पर कोई सांविधिक नियंत्रण नहीं है ।

Opening of a New Regional Office of the State Bank in Kerala

*310. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open a new Regional Office of the State Bank in Kerala;

(b) whether Government have received any representation for opening this office in Calicut; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) In view of the proposed amalgamation of Bank of Cochin Limited with State Bank of India (SBI) there has been a general expectation that an additional Regional Office would be set up by the SBI in Kerala. Suggestions had been received for the location of this new Regional Office at Calicut. However, the SBI has reported that it has no proposal to open a new Regional Office in Kerala. Even after the amalgamation of the Bank of Cochin Ltd. with it SBI does not expect any operational difficulties in administering these branches through its existing Regional office at Trivandrum which is being strengthened by posting two additional Regional Managers.

Seizure of gold from the empoyees of Air-India

*311. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs staff at Delhi Airport apprehended two Air India employees on the night of the 14th July, 1985 and seized 3 Kg. of gold from them.

(b) if so, what are the particulars of these employees;

(c) whether some other employees of Air India are also facing charges of smuggling against them; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action has so far been taken against the employees mentioned in parts (a) and (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) On 14th/15th July, 1985, the Customs authorities at Delhi Airport intercepted one Shri Daya Ram, Air India employee who had attended Flight No. AI-301, which arrived from Hongkong/Bangkok, for clearing. On supicion when his personal check was conducted, 16 gold biscuits totally weighing about 1866 grammes valued at Rs. 3.92 lakhs (market value) were recovered and seized under the Customs Act. Investigations revealed that the gold involved was handed over to Shri Daya Ram by one Shri Ram Das Chauhan, also an Air India employee, who had arrived from Bangkok by Flight No. AI-301.

(c) During the year 1985 (upto July), no other employee of Air India was apprehended in connection with smuggling activities except those mentioned in reply to part (a) and (b) above.

(d) S/Shri Daya Ram and Ram Das Chauhan were arrested under the Customs Act and prosecution has been launched against them in the Court or Law.

Besides initiating departmental proceedings for confiscation of smuggled gold and imposition of personal penalty on the persons involved in smuggling activities, in appropriate cases, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

Non-official Chairmen in public sector undertakings

*312. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the public sector undertakings are run by bureaucrats; and

(b) in how many of the public sector undertakings there are non-official Chairmen at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to available information, there are 31 public enterprises having part-time non-official Chairmen.